Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Ono et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,430,904). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ono teaches a paint film transfer device. Mounted in a case, the paint film transfer device has unused tape storage for feedably storing a transfer tape having a transfer paint film formed on one surface of a backing material and a transfer head for pressing on the backing material of the transfer tape fed from the unused tape storage out of the case to transfer the paint film to the transfer tape to a receiving surface. The transfer head includes a tape presser having a tape pressing surface of a width approximately corresponding to a width of the transfer tape and a pair of left and right side plates for limiting sideways movement of a transfer tape portion contacting the tape presser.

Claims 9 and 12 are directed to a coat film transfer tool that includes clutch means at least in one of a feed and take-up reel with power transmission means provided between a tape winding portion and a rotary drive unit. Claims 9 and 12 recite that clutch means composes, at least in one of the feed and take-up reels, power transmission means provided between a tape winding portion for winding up the coat film transfer tape and a rotary drive unit for rotating and driving the tape winding portion, and is composed by frictionally and directly engaging with each others frictional engaging portions formed in confronting axial end surfaces of the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit. Claims 9 and 12 further recite that the rotary drive unit is sized and adapted to simultaneously retain the tape winding portion stationary in an axial direction relative to the rotary drive unit along a rotational axis while permitting frictional and direct engagement of the frictional engaging portions and relative rotational movement between the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claims 9 and 12. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the,applied art fails to teach a rotary drive unit sized and adapted to simultaneously retain a tape winding portion stationary in an axial direction relative to the rotary drive unit along a rotational axis while permitting frictional and direct engagement of frictional engaging portions and relative rotational movement between the tape winding portion

and the rotary drive unit. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 and 12 are allowable over the applied art.

Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 9 and include all of the features of claim 9. Claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 12 and include all of the features of claim 12. We propose to argue that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons the independent claims are allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Ono. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a clutch mechanism of a coat film transfer tool that includes power transmission means. Claim 1 recites that power transmission means is provided between a tape winding portion for winding up a coat film transfer tape and a rotary drive unit for rotating and driving the tape winding portion. Claim 1 further recites that the power transmission means is composed in at least one of feed and take-up reels, and is composed by frictionally and directly engaging with each others frictional engaging portions formed in confronting axial end surfaces of the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit. Claim 1 also recites that the rotary drive unit is sized and adapted to simultaneously retain the tape winding portion stationary in an axial direction relative to the rotary drive unit along a rotational axis while permitting frictional and direct engagement of the frictional engaging portions and relative rotational movement between the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1. Like claims 9 and 12, the applied art fails to teach a rotary drive unit sized and adapted to simultaneously retain a tape winding portion stationary in an axial direction relative to the rotary drive unit along a rotational axis while permitting frictional and direct engagement of frictional engaging portions and relative rotational movement between the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2 and 8 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the

reasons claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Ono. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3-7 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 23, 2003

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Enclosure(s): Appendix I (Marked-Up Version of Amended Claims)
Petition for Extension of Time (three months)
Notice of Appeal

DC124608

APPENDIX I

(MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS)

1. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A clutch mechanism of coat film transfer tool, comprising:

a feed reel with a coat film transfer tape wound thereabout and a take-up reel for collecting the coat film transfer tape after use, the take-up reel cooperating with the feed reel in a case to synchronize a feed speed and take-up speed of the coat film transfer tape in both reels,

power transmission means is provided between a tape winding portion for winding up the coat film transfer tape and a rotary drive unit for rotating and driving the tape winding portion, the power transmission means is composed in at least one of the feed and take-up reels, and is composed by frictionally and directly engaging with each others frictional engaging portions formed in confronting axial end surfaces of the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit ~~such that there is no axial movement of the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit relative to each other during rotation of the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit~~, the rotary drive unit sized and adapted to simultaneously retain the tape winding portion stationary in an axial direction relative to the rotary drive unit along a rotational axis while permitting frictional and direct engagement of the frictional engaging portions and relative rotational movement between the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit, and

wherein power transmission of the power transmission means is from a frictional force caused by a thrust load between the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit, and is connected and disconnected by a difference in torque therebetween, the thrust load is set by predetermined relational dimensions of the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit in the axial direction between the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit defined by direct and axial engaging of ~~axial~~ frictional engaging portions formed in the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit.

9. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A coat film transfer tool using a coat film

transfer tape of disposable type, comprising:

a case having shape and dimensions to be held and manipulated by one hand,

a feed reel rotatably provided in the case and winding a coat film transfer tape,

a take-up reel rotatably provided in the case and collecting the coat film transfer tape after use,

an interlock means for linking said feed and take-up reels so as to cooperate with each other, and

a coat film transfer head protruding at a front end of the case and pressing the coat film transfer tape onto an object of transfer,

a clutch means for synchronizing, at least in one of the feed and take-up reels, a feed speed and take-up speed of the coat film transfer tape between the feed and take-up reels,

wherein the clutch means composes, at least in one of the feed and take-up reels, power transmission means provided between a tape winding portion for winding up the coat film transfer tape and a rotary drive unit for rotating and driving the tape winding portion, and is composed by frictionally and directly engaging with each others frictional engaging portions formed in confronting axial end surfaces of the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit ~~such that there is no axial movement of the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit relative to each other during rotation of the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit~~, the rotary drive unit sized and adapted to simultaneously retain the tape winding portion stationary in an axial direction relative to the rotary drive unit along a rotational axis while permitting frictional and direct engagement of the frictional engaging portions and relative rotational movement between the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit, and

wherein power transmission of the power transmission means is from a frictional force caused by a thrust load between the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit, and is connected and disconnected by a difference in torque therebetween, the thrust load is set by predetermined relational dimensions of the tape winding portion

and the rotary drive unit in the axial direction between the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit defined by direct and axial engaging of ~~axial~~ frictional engaging portions formed in the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit.

12. (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) A coat film transfer tool using a coat film transfer tape of refill type, comprising:

a case having shape and dimensions to be held and manipulated by one hand,

a feed rotary unit rotatably provided in the case,

a take-up rotary unit rotatably provided in the case,

an interlock means for linking the feed and take-up rotary units so as to cooperate with each other,

a tape cartridge having a feed reel and a take-up reel engaged detachably and rotatably with both the feed and take-up rotary units respectively, and

a coat film transfer head protruding at a front end of the case and pressing the coat film transfer tape onto an object of transfer,

a clutch means for synchronizing, in at least one of the feed and take-up rotary units, a feed speed and take-up speed of the coat film transfer tape in the feed and take-up rotary units,

wherein the clutch means composes, at least in one of the feed and take-up rotary units, power transmission means provided between a tape winding portion for winding up the coat film transfer tape and a rotary drive unit for rotating and driving the tape winding portion, and is composed by frictionally and directly engaging with each others engaging portions formed in confronting axial end surfaces of the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit ~~such that there is no axial movement of the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit relative to each other during rotation of the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit~~, the rotary drive unit sized and adapted to simultaneously retain the tape winding portion stationary in an axial direction relative to the rotary drive unit along a rotational axis while permitting frictional and direct engagement of the frictional engaging portions and relative rotational movement

between the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit, and

wherein power transmission of the power transmission means is from a frictional force caused by a thrust load between the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit, and is connected and disconnected by a difference in torque therebetween, the thrust load is set by predetermined relational dimensions of the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit in the axial direction between the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit defined by direct and axial engaging of ~~axial~~ frictional engaging portions formed in the tape winding portion and the rotary drive unit.